

INSTANT MESSAGE PROXY FOR CIRCUIT SWITCHED MOBILE ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

An instant message (IM) proxy according to the present invention is capable of maintaining the availability status of a mobile subscriber even when the mobile subscriber is roaming or temporarily out of a mobile network coverage area, and even after the IM proxy unsuccessfully attempts to send an instant message to the mobile subscriber. Messages will continue to be re-sent to the mobile subscriber in the near-real time manner characteristic of a typical instant message system until IM parameters programmed into a retry counter and/or the timer located at the proxy are exceeded and the IM proxy drops the message. In addition, the IM proxy of the present invention is capable of bundling instant messages intended for the mobile subscriber to minimize mobile system overhead connection costs while at the same time minimizing IM system latency